NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

SANDY AND SUSAN BOYD

INVITE YOU TO

A STAFF AND VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

and

WELCOME TO JOHN AND JUDY McCARTER

Thursday, September 26, 1996
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
The Field Museum
Stanley Field Hall

Entertainment
Food
Spirits

The *Natural News* will be published the week of September 20 *only* if there are time-valued announcements. Such announcements should be given to Richard Koontz or Helen Green in the President's office. Regular publication will resume with the September 27 issue.

1997 BUDGET PREPARATION

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, September 17, at 2:30 p.m. in Lecture Hall II to discuss 1997 budget preparation. We will hand out budget preparation packets, and discuss the process, the schedule, the new chart of accounts, and answer any questions you may have. We ask that each department send at least one representative, and we encourage anyone who has questions about the budgeting process to attend. Questions? Call **Lucy Bukowski** (x366).

PHILIPPINE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION -- PLANS UNDERWAY FOR 1998

In June of 1998 Chicago will join communities across the country in celebrating the centennial of the Philippine Declaration of Independence from Spain and the beginning of a century of interaction between the Philippines and the United States. The Field Museum plans to host some of Chicago's Philippine Centennial events. Organizing efforts have begun to develop a temporary exhibit highlighting our extensive Philippine collection to be shown here the summer of 1998.

Laura Gates is overseeing the Museum's Philippine Centennial activities. A Museum planning committee has been formed; **Melissa Hilton** (Museum Affairs) and **Joyce Matuszewich** (Education) are co-conveners. Other committee members include **Rosaura Boone** (Education), **Ben Bronson** (Anthropology), **Larry Heaney** (Zoology), **Derek Klechner** (Anthropology), **Jacinto Regalado** (Botany), **Alaka Wali** (CCUC), **Will White** (Institutional Advancement) and two members of the Chicago Filipino community. The Museum is coordinating its efforts with the Philippine Consulate General, the Chicago Philippine Centennial Committee and other Filipino community representatives. If you're interested in learning more about the project, call **Melissa Hilton** (x434).

A Big Thank You!

The Women's Board would like to thank everyone who helped make the Fashion Show such a tremendous success. We appreciate the assistance and support from each and every one of you during the week.

Cindy Andresen and Alicia Vazquez

P.S. Get ready for the Ball in November!

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

CHAP KUSIMBA RETURNS FROM FIELDWORK IN KENYA

Assistant Curator **Chap M. Kusimba** (Anthropology), accompanied by students **Jon Rogers** (University of Illinois, Chicago, and Field Museum Security Services), **Patrick Byrd** (Summer Intern--Eastern Illinois University), and **Matthew Zinsmeister** (Volunteer, Geology) spent two months in Kenya continuing excavations at the archaeological site of Mtwapa. The Mtwapa site, located fifteen kilometers north of Mombasa, Kenya is an eight hectare site containing monumental architecture. It has been gazetted as a National Monument by the Kenya government. Chap's reassessment of Mtwapa's settlement chronology, based on trade ceramics, suggests that Mtwapa was inhabited between AD 1000 - 1750. At its zenith, Mtwapa was a multi-tiered port town with several wards, each with its own wells, mosques, and cemeteries.

Three hectares of the site contain 64 standing ruins, 18 mounds, several midden deposits, 13 wells, five mosques, numerous unbuilt areas, and a possible workshop area. No other coastal site of its age has as many intact stone structure foundations. Chap conducted an earlier archaeological survey in 1991-2, which revealed that more than half of Mtwapa's domestic structures were built outside the town wall and made of mud on wooden frames or globular frames thatched with grass.

The study of Mtwapa will contribute towards understanding the development of complex societies of the East African coast. Chap is now writing a summary of his research on the Swahili Coast for *Natural History Magazine.* Photographs for his article were taken by Lori Grinker, who was sent to Kenya by *Natural History Magazine* to photograph Chap's research in the field. Chap also visited East Tsavo National Park and met with colleagues in the Research Department of the Kenya Wildlife Services, to discuss possibilities of undertaking research at Tsavo National Park with Research Associate **Julian Kerbis** (Zoology).

RESEARCH IN THE NEWS

The research of MacArthur Curator **Jonathan Haas** (Anthropology) was included in a *New York Times* science article (August 20, 1996) on the migration of the Anasazi (the ancestors of today's Pueblo Indians) in the late 1200's from their stone villages in the Four Corners region of the American Southwest to the mesas and river valleys to the south in Arizona and New Mexico.

Recent scientific evidence has shown that a great drought was probably not the single determining factor pushing the people south. Dr. Haas' research of settlements near Kayenta in northern Arizona indicates that patterns of conflict and warfare may also have played a role in leading the people to abandon their homes and move to new territories. This summer, Kurtis Productions filmed a "New Explorers" television program highlighting the research Jonathan and Adjunct Curator **Winifred Creamer** (also Anthropology) are conducting in Arizona and New Mexico (see September/October *In the Field*). The program will air in the Chicago area on WTTW, Channel 11, November 13, 1996.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

GREG MUELLER NEW CHAIR OF BOTANY DEPARTMENT

Associate Curator **Greg Mueller** has been elected by the department to serve as the new Chair of the Botany effective September 1. Greg will serve a four year term and assumes the role from Acting Chair, and Vice President Academic Affairs and Director **Peter R. Crane**. Greg has been at The Field Museum since 1985. His research focuses on the diversity, biogeography, and evolutionary history of macrofungi, especially mushrooms. Greg was not able to assume his new responsibilities immediately, as he was away in China on field work until September 6 (see below). Congratulations Greg!

MYCOLOGISTS RETURN FROM CHINA

Collections Manager **Qiuxin Wu**, Associate Curator **Greg Mueller**, Associate **Betty Strack**, and student intern **Aleksa Kosinski** (all of Botany) just completed five weeks of fieldwork in China. The trip was part of Qiuxin and Greg's National Science Foundation-funded project to investigate biogeographic relationships between the mushrooms and other macrofungi of China and the eastern United States. This is a cooperative project between The Field Museum and the Mycology and Lichenology Laboratory, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing. In addition to collecting in Guizhou Province in the southwest and Jilin Province in the northeast, they worked with staff and students at the Laboratory and Greg presented two seminars. Highlights of the trip included collecting along the 7,000 steps (stairs) up to the Golden Mountain in the Fanjing Mountain Nature Preserve (the best collecting was between 5,200-6,000 steps) and along the slopes of Changbai Mountain, a volcano near the North Korean border. Collecting in the northeast was great - for example the team collected over 120 species in one 1,000m2 plot in the mixed hardwood/conifer forest and ninety species in one 1,000m2 in a high elevation conifer forest. They were successful in finding a number of their targeted species in addition to several previously unreported North American/China disjunct species. Professor Jiang-Chun Wei, the project's chief Chinese collaborator, will be arriving at The Field Museum on September 20 for his reciprocal visit.

JANET VOIGHT RETURNS FROM SEA

Associate Curator **Janet Voight** (Zoology) recently returned from another two weeks at sea, this time to hydrothermal vents off the coast of Washington in the Pacific Ocean. Her trip brought to the Museum specimens of four families new to the Invertebrate Zoology collections, a new species of vent-endemic fish for Fishes, and basalt from an oceanic spreading center and sulfides from a chimney structure for the Geology department.

Janet studied the role of predators at hydrothermal vent communities. She succeeded in demonstrating that vent-endemic fish can be collected using commercial minnow traps baited with cat food (Safeway Select Salmon dinner appears to be favorite with fish at depths of over

2,200 m, although Beef & Liver is preferred by abyssal amphipods). The collection of vent fish by traps is a first; it demonstrates biological differences among well-studied vent communities in the Pacific. In addition, behavioral observations of octopuses near vents were made, crabs were collected by suction sampler and clams were collected to test whether octopuses drill their shells as do shallow-water octopuses.

Janet's trip was fully funded by a grant from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's agency National Undersea Research Program (NURP). The cruise was funded co-operatively by the Canadian equivalent to our NSF, NOAA/NURP and the State of Washington. The State of Washington funded a pilot educational program in which middle school through community college teachers participated in the cruise to learn more about science, scientists and deep-sea biology. Information about the cruise was posted virtually daily to a web page.

If you want more information see <http://ocean.washington.edu/exploraquarium/revel/>. CNN (possibly bored by the political conventions) also devoted a web page to the results of the cruise: <http://www.cnn.com/TECH/9608/23/science.life/index.html>.

CEEB REPRESENTED AT ECOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY MEETING

The Society for Conservation Biology held its annual meeting in conjunction with the Ecological Society of America, the Association for Tropical Biology, and the American Society of Naturalists this year in Providence, Rhode Island, August 10 -14, 1996. It was an enormous meeting, with some 5,000 registrants and sixteen concurrent sessions, with a large number of conservation-related papers. CEEB staff that attended were Postdoctoral Research Associate **Jack Murphy** (Botany), Program Coordinator **Cathy Geraghty** (Advanced Training Program) and Conservation Ecologist **Doug Stotz** (Environmental Conservation Programs). Jack presented a paper on Chicago Wilderness and Cathy detailed the plans for the Conservation Training Consortium, the 'next phase' of the Advanced Training program, set to start next year.

FIELD MUSEUM AT BIRD MEETING

The Field Museum was represented at the 1996 American Ornithologists' Union meeting in Boise, Idaho August 13-17 by Collection Assistant/Preparator **Ben Marks** and Collection Manager **Dave Willard** (both Birds), **Peter Lowther** (Computing, and Research Associate, Birds) and Conservation Ecologist **Doug Stotz** (Environmental Conservation Programs). Ben and Dave presented a poster on hybrid warblers, Dave, Doug and graduate student **Mary Hennen** (Governor State University) presented a poster on the McCormick migration study, and Doug presented a paper on endemism in Neotropical open habitats. Peter coordinated the scientific program. Besides Field Museum staff, three University of Chicago/Field Museum students, **Keith Barker**, **Amy Driskell** and **John Harshman** (all Zoology) presented papers detailing their molecular systematic studies on toucans, honeycreepers and ducks respectively. Doug Stotz and Amy Driskell chaired paper sessions.

NOON BALLOON

The first Noon Balloon presentation for the Fall of 1996 was delivered Tuesday September 10 by N.M. Chapin, Director, Center for the Support of Native Lands, a non-profit organization based in Arlington, Virginia. **Alaka Wali,** Associate Curator, Department of Anthropology and Director, Center for Cultural Understanding and Change, Field Museum, introduced Mac Chapin's discussion of participatory mapping by indigenous peoples as a strategy for the protection of land and natural resources. Mac described cooperative projects involving native peoples to map current land use in Honduras, Panama and Bolivia. When all data have been integrated with cartographic data, the resultant map has become an important base line to assess potential conservation programs.

HEADS UP, FIELD MUSEUM BIKERS!

It is the policy of the Museum that bike storage areas (shipping dock and Engineering area) are to be used only for daily commutes (not lunchtime or weekend jaunts or for permanent storage). Bikes are to be left overnight in the Museum only in the event of inclement weather which prevents the biker from riding it back home at the end of the work day. Staff members who commute on bicycles and park them in the Engineering area at the west entrance have expressed their concern about the jumble of bicycles that are stacked in that area. It appears that many are left there unmoved for extended periods of time, impeding access for those who use their bikes daily, as well as constituting an obstacle to the normal operations of the Engineering personnel. All bikers, please take note that the Facility Planning and Operations office intends to implement this policy. All bicycles which are observed as being chained and unmoved in the Engineering area over the next thirty day period will be removed to an appropriate storage area where they will not interfere with the normal operations of the Engineering staff or with the daily bike commuting of other staff members.

Bikes may not be taken to office areas. With the implementation of the above policy, adequate storage should be available in the designated areas.

Questions? Call Andy (x380).

FYI -- NOTARY PUBLICS IN THE MUSEUM

The following staff are notary publics: **Richard Koontz, Pat Phillips, Heidi Snell, Vietrice Thompson**.

SUGGESTION BOX

It's been awhile, but the suggestion box contents were reviewed by the Kaffeeklatsch Committee at the September 4 meeting. Every month, the Committee will be reviewing the comments and suggestions at their regular meeting.

Remember, boxes are located in three places: (1) Ground floor by the north elevator; (2) Ground floor by the Mail Room/Print Shop; (3) Third floor by the center elevator. At the September meeting, the Committee commented that the identifying lettering has come off of the boxes. We are requesting that Graphics re-letter the boxes for easier identification.

The following four items were in the suggestions boxes:

S My idea is to request of the Park District to expand our west parking lot, longer to the North and to the South, or allow us to.

A The Park District will not allow us to change the size of the west lot.

S A "Concerned Employee" voiced that some Street Wise Publication representatives can be verbally abusive and obnoxious when they are trying to persuade to you buy the publication and was concerned for staff and visitors. It was suggested that these sellers not be allowed at our north and south entrances.

A The Park District approves the vendors that can be located around the Museum property. The Committee suggests that anyone concerned about a seller get the vendor's badge number and contact the Street Wise Publication and place a complaint. This would go for other vendor's, as well.

S Hold a Field Museum picnic.

A Let us know what you think! Are there any other ideas. Are there any volunteers to plan and manage the picnic?

S Suggestion that the Museum investigate a recycling program for visitors to recycle the visitor guides.

A The Museum currently does have such a program. Recycling bins are located at the north and south entrances at the kiosk areas. Perhaps we need larger lettering, etc. This suggestion has been forwarded to Public Services.

SAFETY CORNER

... With so much going on, do hazards ever slip through the cracks?*

Hopefully, very little slips through the cracks. The big issue is vigilance -- we have to remember that many scientific and artistic decisions also have a safety component. ... Hazard communication and basic safety-equipment training are a constant challenge because there's a lot of turnover among our staff. Researchers come and go as they take academic posts or return from field research. The exhibits people often work on a particular project and then return to other work. Each year we get new security and administrative people. There's also a steady flow of college students and interns.

What public-safety issues arise at the Museum?*

Mostly, the sort of things that you can't predict. Every day, we have thousands of visitors of all ages and physical abilities. Severe injuries are rare, but we get our share of slips and falls, in addition to the occasional medical emergency or security-response situation. You just have to be alert and prepared.

That said, there are two areas we've focused on quite a bit lately. One is finger injuries from interactive exhibits. A popular trend in museums is the use of "activity boxes" with attached lids. For example, the top of a box on an exhibit says, "How does a giraffe defend itself?" The answer is revealed when you raise the lid. In 1994, we had seven injuries associated with these lids -- most of them involved children. When this pattern emerged, our safety committee looked into it and asked the exhibit department to redesign the lids to remove the risk of crunched fingers. Now the boxes have an inch of space between a rubber-edged lid and the answer surface.

The other area we've focused on is bloodborne-pathogens training for people who work with the public. Our security staff regularly receives training about bloodborne diseases such as AIDS, and is vaccinated against hepatitis B. We've also provided bloodborne-pathogens training for the housekeeping staff because they often have to clean up broken glass, materials or fluids that could contain bloodborne pathogens.

* Excerpted from interview with **Richard Koontz** in *Safety+Health* magazine (August 1996)

New Staff and Volunteer Orientation Program

Our next new staff and volunteer orientation session will be held in Lecture Hall II on **Friday, September 27** from 8:45 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Recently hired staff and volunteers are cordially invited to attend. The program includes refreshments, a presentation featuring guest speakers and a "behind-the-scenes" tour of the Museum! Check with your supervisor if you plan to attend, and call Heidi in Personnel at ext. 531 to reserve your space today. Hope to see you there!